

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

2010 Household Hazardous Waste Program Annual Report



January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

**Prepared by:
Indiana Household Hazardous
Waste Grant Program**

Introduction

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance (OPPTA), Source Reduction and Recycling Branch has provided grant funding and technical assistance to Indiana local units of government for the development and operation of household hazardous waste (HHW) and conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste (CESQG) collection programs. Since 1994, IDEM has provided 175 HHW grants and 5.8 million dollars in support to communities and solid waste management districts. This funding helped start and expand HHW programs or activities, safe management of hazardous household products, and educate residents about preferred disposal options for HHW.

Suspension of HHW Grant Program

Currently, as all levels of government around the country are managing budget reductions, the State of Indiana is committed to keeping all essential governmental services running smoothly and effectively during these difficult times. Therefore, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in December of 2008 temporarily suspended state-funded grant and loan programs for business and local government recycling and pollution prevention projects, including the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program.

Due to the suspension of the grant program, no projects were funded in 2010 and no money was expended through the grants program. Until the fiscal situation is resolved, no estimate of money required to meet grant requests or recommended changes to the program will be provided through this annual report. IDEM continues to provide technical assistance to Indiana residents, local government and businesses on HHW and CESQG collection and management issues, including household pharmaceutical and sharps waste management.

Technical Assistance and Support

The following sections provide brief updates on IDEM technical assistance, educational activities informing residents and businesses about ways to reduce HHW and CESQG generation and improper disposal, and the operations of Indiana HHW programs.

Indiana HHW Task Force

IDEM continues to work with the Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, Inc. (IHHWTF) and communities to address HHW issues throughout the state. With IDEM's technical assistance, the Task Force promotes the proper, environmentally-safe collection, recycling, and disposal of household hazardous waste. Its 53 members include solid waste management districts, cities, towns, counties and companies that manage or provide HHW services. Since 2000, regional cooperative HHW grants (funded by IDEM) and local funding have supported IHHWTF members in diverting more than 3.4 million pounds of HHW from being poured down the drain, on the ground, or ending up in solid waste landfills.

Pharmaceuticals

The proper disposal of expired or unwanted medicines is an issue that has received increased concern among the public, the medical community, environmentalists and governmental agencies in recent years. Products of concern include prescription, over-the-counter medications and personal care products. Improper disposal of medicines presents both a public safety and environmental hazard. Studies conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have shown that pharmaceuticals are present in our lakes and streams. Expired or

unwanted medicines, if flushed down the toilet or drain, are a source of pollution in wastewater. Because sewage treatment plants are not designed to deal with pharmaceutical waste, these chemicals can be released into streams, lakes, and groundwater and affect fish and other aquatic wildlife.

In 2010, IDEM provided technical assistance to communities, SWMDs, and organizations to establish pharmaceutical collection programs. Indiana collection programs reported collecting 15 tons of household pharmaceutical waste in 2010. Additionally, 41 Marsh pharmacies collected over 35,000 vials of pharmaceuticals from over 2,400 persons during spring and fall events. Staff has coordinated the Indiana Unwanted Medicines Task Force, a group of individuals representing pharmacy, medical, solid and hazardous waste, and governmental interests. The Task Force has evaluated and discussed the evolving issue of household pharmaceutical waste disposal and is developing an Indiana guide on collecting unwanted medications.

HHW Collection around the state

Household hazardous waste programs collect waste that otherwise would be improperly disposed by dumping in a ditch, poured down drains or storm sewers, or disposed in landfills. Thirty-seven HHW programs, serving 62 percent of Indiana residents, provided IDEM HHW collection information for 2010. Information on local HHW collection programs can be found at www.in.gov/recycle/5724.htm.

2010 HHW Program Collections	
Hazardous Waste	2,437 tons
Used Motor Oil	116,000 gallons
E-waste	1,370 tons
Tires	160,000 tires
Appliances	1769 tons
Sharps	4.7 tons

Most programs that provide HHW services also collect problem materials because of the lack of other means of disposal for these materials and increased public demand for collection services. Problem materials include mercury and mercury-containing items, used oil, electronics, tires, appliances, and sharps. These problem materials contain toxic or hazardous component that are difficult to dispose of safely, and improper disposal can create environmental and health hazards (see chart above).

Conclusion

IDEM technical support and grants have provided important support for the growth of HHW programs and services in Indiana. HHW programs educate residents on safe storage and management of household chemicals which helps prevent accidental poisoning of children and household accidents. HHW programs provide a way for residents to safely dispose of used motor oil, gasoline, pesticides and other hazardous products used in the home, making homes safer and reducing hazards for fire fighters. The hazardous and problem waste collected and properly disposed by HHW programs is diverted from disposal in Indiana lakes, streams, storm drains, and ravines, reducing pollution and clean-up cost for Indiana communities. For more information on IDEM HHW reduction efforts, visit www.recycle.in.gov.